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(WASHINGTON, DC) - Today Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) continued his push to make government more accountable by helping pass legislation that will provide new tools to reduce wasteful spending and make government more efficient and transparent. The bipartisan Government Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Performance Improvement Act, which Carnahan cosponsored, was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives and is part of a series of fiscal responsibility and government accountability measures Carnahan has championed this year.

"As families are forced to stretch their budget and tighten their belts, government should do the same," Carnahan said. "And just as importantly, we must make sure that the taxpayer dollars we do spend are used effectively. This bipartisan bill will provide the kind of aggressive oversight that will ensure that we have a results-oriented approach to the way we do business."

The legislation passed today will take unprecedented new action to reduce wasteful and ineffective spending by requiring the heads of federal agencies to identify near-term and long-term high-priority goals for their agencies, and to make public quarterly assessments of progress toward achieving those goals. This bill has support from the Center for American Progress Action Fund (CAPAF), Taxpayers for Common Sense, and Robert Shea, Associate OMB Director under President George W. Bush. In his letter of support, Mr. Shea states, "I led performance improvement efforts during my tenure in the George W. Bush Administration. ... The provisions of this bill would have greatly enhanced these efforts had they been in place."

"We have to focus our investments on what's working for Americans," Carnahan said. "Now, we will have the tools to measure progress, reward those things that are working, and cut the programs that aren't - all under the bright sunshine of public scrutiny."

Today's action is the latest in a series of measures Carnahan has pushed to restore fiscal responsibility and create greater accountability:

Earlier this year, Congress enacted 'Pay-As-You-Go' (PAYGO) legislation that requires all new policies that reduce revenue or expand spending to be fully paid for over five and ten years,

restoring a policy that helped turn deficits into massive surpluses during the 1990s, until the Republican-led Congress allowed the rules to expire in 2002. In 2001, President Clinton left office with a projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion; when President Bush left office in 2009, a series of unfunded policies passed without the restrictions of PAYGO - including a massive tax cut for the wealthiest Americans and the cost of two wars that were funded outside of the budget process - resulted in projected deficits of over \$11 trillion.

Carnahan is a sponsor of H.R. 4720, the Taking Responsibility for Congressional Pay Act, which would provide a 5% reduction in pay for Members of Congress, redirecting the money saved to help pay down the deficit.

Carnahan helped the House pass the IMPROVE Acquisition Act, which will reform the defense acquisition system to save American taxpayers \$135 billion over the next five years and make sure that the men and women who are risking their lives to safeguard our country get the proper equipment they need to do their jobs and protect themselves on the battlefield. The bill includes four key common-sense reforms: building a better accountability system, improving the management of the acquisition workforce, creating an auditable financial management system at DOD, and expanding and strengthening the industrial base to enhance competition and gain access to more technology

The House also passed the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act, which targets nearly \$100 billion a year in improper government payments that result from poor oversight on the part of federal agencies. This legislation improves transparency in government agencies, prevents improper payments, requires agencies to recover overpayments, and holds top managers at agencies accountable for improper payments or overpayments.

As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight, Carnahan has held several hearings examining reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan to ensure a strict accounting of how resources are being utilized.

"Without restoring fiscal responsibility, our economy can't fully recover," said Congressman Carnahan. "The large deficits we inherited as a result of reckless borrow-and-spend policies of the last administration have put pressure on funding for important priorities such as job creation. We are long overdue to reestablish tough common-sense action to restore fiscal responsibility."

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